

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A battery separator comprising at least one fibrous layer comprising a mixture of glass fibers and polymeric fibers and at least one support layer, wherein said support layer is formed of an acid-resistant material and comprises a plurality of macroscopic openings having diameters larger than 1 mm and penetrating the whole thickness of said support layer providing direct ionic transfer through said support layer via straight paths extending substantially perpendicular to the extended plane of said support layer.
2. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous layer has an average pore size of 3 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously presented) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous layers comprise glass fibers having a diameter of 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .
15. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 14, wherein the glass fibers have diameters ranging from 0.1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
16. (Previously presented) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous layers comprise polymeric fibers having a diameter of 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .
17. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 16, wherein the polymeric fibers have diameters ranging from 0.1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .
18. (Previously presented) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric fibers are polyolefin fibers.
19. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 18, wherein the polyolefin is polyethylene and/or polypropylene.
20. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous layer has a thickness of 0.2 mm to 3.6 mm.
21. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the openings of the support layer cover more than 60% of the surface of the support layer.
22. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 21, wherein the openings of the support layer cover more than 70% of the surface of the support layer.
23. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 22, wherein

the openings of the support layer cover more than 80% of the surface of the support layer.

24. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 23, wherein the openings of the support layer cover more than 90% of the surface of the support layer.

25. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the openings are spaced apart 0.01 to 5 mm.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein at least two opposing edge regions of the support layer are not covered by the fibrous layer to provide edges for sealing.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the openings of the support layer have the form of slots or long holes.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the support layer has a thickness of 0.01 to 1 mm.

41. (Original) A battery separator according to claim 1, wherein the separator has the form of a pocket with an open top, a closed bottom and closed sides.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)